

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1884

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT AGREEMENTS: GDR
STATEMENT ON ALLIED BK/O

REFS: A) BONN 898, B) BONN 879, C) USBERLIN 91

1. SUMMARY: GDR NEWSPAPERS CARRY JANUARY 20 ADN
COMMENTARY LABELLING ALLIED BK/O
EFFORT TO CHANGE LEGAL STATUS IN CITY. WHILE COMMENTARY
SAYS THAT ALLIED ACTION CALLS INTO QUESTION SOME
PARTS OF DECEMBER 19 INNER-GERMAN PACKAGE AGREEMENT,
IT STRIKES US LESS AS A THREAT THAT GDR WILL ATTEMPT
TO BACK OUT OF AGREEMENTS OR MAKE TROUBLE OVER
REICHSBAHN THAN AN EFFORT TO PLAY UP ALLEGED ALLIED
UNHAPPINESS OVER AGREEMENTS AND DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN
ALLIES AND FRG AND SENAT. END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING EAST GERMAN NEWS SERVICE ITEM DATELINED

BERLIN-WEST APPEARS VERBATIME IN BOTH NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND BERLINER ZEITUNG; BEGIN TEXT: ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN THE LOCAL MASS MEDIA, THE WESTERN OCCUPATION FORCES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS IN THE TRAFFIC AGREEMENTS WITH THE GDR. INVOLVED ARE QUESTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE BORDER TRAIN STATION STAAKEN TO CIVILIAN TRAINS (BERLIN-WEST-HAMBURG) AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE NEW STOPPING POINTS FOR REICHSBAHN PASSENGER TRAINS IN BERLIN-WEST THAT HAVE BEEN PROMISED BY THE GDR. THE "ALLIED KOMMANDATURA" CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY IN A DIRECTIVE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE DEUTSCHE REICHSBAHN IN BERLIN-WEST. AN ATTEMPT IS EVEN MADE TO CHANGE UNILATERALLY THE LEGAL SITUATION THAT HAS EXISTED FOR DAYS AND YEARS ON THE RAILROAD TERRITORY IN BERLIN-WEST AND THAT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. AMONG THE OBVIOUS DISTORTIONS OF EXISTING TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS IT IS DEMANDED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE GDR AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RAILWAYS IN BERLIN-WEST MUST FIRST OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE OFFICIALS OF THE WESTERN POWERS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN BUILDING MEASURES AND MUST SUBMIT THEMSELVES MOREOVER TO A "CONTROL AND INSPECTION PROCEDURE." OBVIOUSLY THE INTERVENTION OF THE "ALLIED OFFICIALS" IN BERLIN-WEST IS MEANT TO IMPAIR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND BERLIN-WEST AND TO BRING INTO QUESTION THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFECTED SETTLEMENTS. END TEXT. HEADLINE IN SED JOURNAL NEUES DEUTSCHLAND IS "WESTERN OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES DISSATISFIED (UNZUFRIEDEN) WITH THE TRAFFIC AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR." HEADLINE IN EAST BERLIN BERLINER ZEITUNG IS "ALLIED KOMMANDATURA WISHES TO CHANGE LEGAL STATUS--RESPONSIBILITY CLAIMED FOR REICHSBAHN IN WESTBERLIN."

3. COMMENTARY: WE ARE FAIRLY RELAZED ABOUT THIS COMMENTARY. GDR PROBABLY FELT IT HAD TO SAY SOMETHING PUBLICLY AFTER PUBLICITY GIVEN TO BK/O BY WESTERN PRESS IN PAST FEW DAYS. WE VIEW ADN STATEMENT AS COMBINATION OF CUSTOMARY GDR CLAIM TO SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REICHSGAHN AFFAIRS IN WEST BERLIN (THROUGH INTERESTINGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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STATEMENT SPEAKS ONLY OF "OPERATION" NOT OF SOVEREIGNTY) WITHEFFORT TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN ALLIED AND FRG AND SENAT BY PICKING UP SOME WESTERN PRESS INTERPRETATIONS THAT BK/O REFLECTED ALLIED DISPLEASURE. FINAL PART OF STATEMENT IS PHRASED LESS AS GDR THREAT TO TAKE DISRUPTIVE ACTIONS THAN AS CHARGE THAT ALLIES WISH TO PREVENT AGREEMENT FROM BEING CARRIED OUT. COINCIDENCE THAT WEST BERLIN PRESS CARRIES FRG AND ALLIED STATEMENTS

DEVELOPED YESTERDAY (REFTELS) BACK TO BACK WITH ADN
COMMENTARY SHOULD HELP TO DISPELL ANY SUGGESTION THAT
ALLIES AND FRG ARE SPLIT. WE DO NOT REGARD ADN
COMMENTARY AS INDICATIONG THAT GDR WISHES TO FORCE CON-
FRONTATION ON RAILWAY STATUS. OUR GUESS IS THAT
AFTER DECENT INTERVAL, AND PERHAPS AFTER EFFORT HAS BEEN
MADE TO PASS VARIOUS DOCUMENTS TO US THROUGH FOREIGN-
MINISTRY-SENAT CHANNEL, WE WILL GET ROUTINE, QUIET
COOPERATION AT REICHSBAHN LEVEL THAT WILL PERMIT ENVISAGED
CONSTRUCTION TO BE CARRIED OUT.
GEORGE

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